exist for Members of Parliament, Defence, Lok Sabha Secretariat, Delhi Administration, Posts & Telegraphs employees, Judges, Journalists and Government of India Press employees, etc. A separate pool was carved out in 1988 for the Rajya Sabha Secretariat employees by placing 244 houses from general pool for administration by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. This was in addition to 130 houses which were already under the control of Rajya Sabha Secretariat. The objective in creating separate pools is to enable better percentage of satisfaction for staff of this designated organisations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The comparative satisfaction of Rajya Sabha Secretariat employees in various types is found to be better as compared to the satisfaction available for the general pool employees.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) There is no such proposal.

Authorisation to TRIFED for procurement and support price operations

@431. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR.

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) and other cooperatives have been authorised to take up the procurement and support price operations in paddy, wheat and other cereals and pulses;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether it is a fact that collection and marketing of paddy and wheat etc. from tribal regions are unorganised and unsystematic; if so, what steps are being taken to improve the collection of these products?

@ Previously Unstarred Question 183 transferred from the 26th December, 1989.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) TRIFED has been appointed as an agency of Food Corporation of India (FCI) for procurement of wheat and paddy from tribal areas in the country. It has also been authorised to undertake procurement of coarse grains, pulses and oilseeds in tribal areas. This is done with a view to effectively reach the benifits under price support schemes to tribals.

(c) In the past there were some problems as the purchases were made from the mandis/regulated markets located at blocks, taluk or district headquarters. Now TRIFED makes procurement of wheat, paddy, coarse grains, pulses and oilseeds through State Tribal Cooperative Corporations/Federations from the tribal growers at "Heats" which are the traditional weekly markets of tribals. In view of this the collection & marketing of the tribal produce had been streamlined.

Raising of ceilling limit for payment of bonus

432. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the out-dated provision in the Bonus Act putting the eligibility limit on the income of Rs. 2,500 p.m. would deny bonus to a large segment of workers of the public sector particularly those covered by the productivity-linked bonus scheme; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to raise the ceiling limit in view of the increased emoluments of the workers of the Public Sector?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Payment of Bonus Act was amended in 1985 increasing the eligibility limit from Rs. 1600 to Rs. 2500 p. m. thus bringing a larger segment of workers under its coverage.